



Los Angeles County Commission on Local Governmental Services

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March 3, 2015

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

This is the report on the activities of the Los Angeles County Local Governmental Services Commission (Commission) for 2013 and 2014. The Board of Supervisors formed the Commission in 1977 to identify and recommend cost-effective and efficient ideas for the delivery of multi-jurisdictional services within the County. On the first Tuesday of each month the Commission holds its meeting at 9:30 a.m. in Room 374-A, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration for presentations and discussions of various issues that may affect the County.

While the Commission has had long standing vacancies, with almost one from each Supervisorial District, Independent Contract Cities, and the President of Los Angeles City Council, there was only one meeting where we did not have a quorum. We thank the Commissioners for their dedication that allowed us to continue our work.

Meeting Highlights

2013

A Sustainable Solid Waste System

For the past three years, the Commission has had a vested interest in solid waste conversion technologies as an alternative to managing waste in landfills. A subcommittee was formed to further review the sustainable solid waste systems.

Assembly Bill (AB) 109 Realignment of 2011

The Commission invited various experts on AB 109 from the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, Sheriff's and Probation Departments, County-wide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee, the Los Angeles Police Department and the Honorable Judge Mary Thornton House to discuss its impact on the County's courts and jails systems. The Commission did not act on this matter in 2013.

Knowledgeable authorities continued to report before the Commission in 2014. Written findings to the Board of Supervisors are scheduled to be completed in 2015.

Effect of the Community Care Facilities Ordinance

The Commission invited Jeff Christensen, Executive Director, The Sober Living Network, and Susan Burton, Founder, A New Way of Life Reentry Project and a CNN Hero, to discuss the effect of the Los Angeles City Community Care Facilities Ordinance that prohibits single family homes being used as a sober living facility. After review of evidence provided, the Commission lacked substantive information to make a recommendation to the Board.

Eradication of Homelessness in Los Angeles County - United Way

The Board of Supervisors formally supported United Way's Home for Good Program in 2011 whose action plan is to end chronic and veteran homelessness in Los Angeles County by 2016. The Commission assisted United Way in contacting cities within Los Angeles County to introduce the program, notify them of the homeless count and the June 2013 Summit.

Film Ordinance

The Commission, in collaboration with the Chief Executive Office (CEO), ensured reasonable film rates were being charged to film at Los Angeles County facilities. As a direct result, a January 22, 2013 memo from the CEO to the Board of Supervisors included two recommendations by the Commission.

2014

A Sustainable Solid Waste System

Pat Proano, Assistant Deputy Director, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, reported on a Sustainable Solid Waste System Roadmap that his Department was considering for the 21st Century that was driven by key legislation. The Commission will continue to follow the Department's and local municipalities' progress in creating sustainable waste systems and more energy efficient facilities.

AB 109 Realignment of 2011

The Commission reviewed findings originating from reports from various authorities on the impact of AB 109 in Los Angeles County. Additional testimonies are scheduled for 2015.

Effect of the Community Care Facilities Ordinance "What Works: Plans, Models, and Best Practice in a Living Epistle"

The Commission continued its study of recovery homes by inviting Brad Carson, Founder, Jobs Create Peace, whose mission is to create safe communities by breaking the cycle of repeat criminal offenders and intergenerational gang violence by addressing the spiritual, social and economic root of the cause. Dave Sheridan, Board Member of the National Association of Recovery Residents, also spoke before the Commission. The Commission realignment sub-committee was asked to review the report to identify what the Commission supports and to report back for recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.

Forensic Research Center/Body Farm (FRC)

On July 21, 2014, the Commission conducted a tour of the Los Angeles County Department of Coroner's (LACDC) morgue. As a direct result, the Commission is studying the feasibility of establishing a FRC in Los Angeles County. In the Fall of 2014, the Commission invited Ed Winter, Assistant Chief, LACDC, Lieutenant Elissa Fleak, Special Operations, LACDC, Karina Peck, Human Remains Detection K-9 Handler, LACDC, and Elizabeth Miller, Ph.D., DABFA, Professor in the Department of Anthropology at California State University, Los Angeles, to report their interest in forming a FRC. Los Angeles County has seven unique microclimates and providing a FRC in those climates would assist the Los Angeles County Coroner fill the gap in determining the time of death of a decomposed body. The Commission intends to submit a report to the Board of Supervisors upon completion of their study by mid-2015.

Governor's Declaration of the Water Emergency/Drought Emergency

In March 2014, the Commission invited Penny Falcon, Los Angeles City Department of Public Works, Pricilla Segura, Central Water Basin, and Brandon J. Goshi, Manager of Water Policy and Strategy of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. They provided insight on the 2014 local drought impact and the Governor's Declaration of the Drought Emergency. The Commission did not act on this matter in 2014, but will continue to monitor changes in legislation and processes to conserve water.

Tow Truck Reform

In May 2014, the Commission scheduled a presentation on tow truck reform in Los Angeles County which addressed the State towing laws prohibiting tow truck companies from soliciting for business. The Commission invited Sayuj Panicker, Deputy County Counsel, joined by Fernando Rubio, Jr., Operations Chief, and Hamlet Panosian, Assistant Operations Chief from the Office of the Treasurer and Tax Collector (TTC), Mark Lambert, Deputy Los Angeles City Attorney, and Los Angeles Police Department Detective Benjamin Jones to speak on the subject. The Commission determined there were weaknesses in the issuance of permits, regulations, and further study will need to be done regarding complaints about excessive impound charges and stolen personal property within the tow truck facilities.

Regional Tourism Authority

Mickey Kantor, Former Secretary of Commerce and Co-Chair of the Los Angeles 2020 Commission, spoke about the 2020 report on establishing a Regional Tourism Authority in Los Angeles County. The Commission conducted preliminary discussions on the feasibility of establishing a regional tourism authority to either replace or complement the several city-based tourism agencies throughout Los Angeles County. Additional discussions and guest presentations are scheduled in 2015 with a possible submission of Commission findings to the Board of Supervisors.

The Commission looks forward to continuing to serve you in 2015. Please do not hesitate to contact the Commission at (213) 974-1431, if there are any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Mark Burman, Chairperson (2013/14)

Bob Archuleta, 1st Vice Chairperson (2014)

MB:nj

c: Mayor, City of Los Angeles
President, Los Angeles City Council
California Contract Cities Association
Independent Cities Association
League of California Cities, Los Angeles City Division
Patrick Ogawa, Acting Executive Officer of the Board of Supervisors